

ADOPTION BY THE BOISE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Recommended by Boise County Wildfire Group

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Boise County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan

The proposal of the Boise County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan is to provide Boise County residents, public and private organizations with assistance and recommendations to reduce risk and hazards presented by wildfires within Boise County. Action items are directed to wildfire mitigation and, as appropriate, mitigation of natural hazards.

Wildfire Plan Development and Organization

The Boise County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan will tier to the Idaho State Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Worksheet was used for plan formulation, and timelines. Development and review of the plan was accomplished by the Boise County Wildfire Group (BCWG).

Participation in the BCWG included representatives from:

- Boise County Commissioners
- Boise County GIS
- Boise County Planning and Zoning
- Boise County Disaster Services
- Boise County Assessors
- Boise County Fire Fighters Association
- Boise County Volunteer Fire Department Chiefs
- Boise County Sheriff's Office
- Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services
- Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)
- Idaho Fish and Game
- Home Owners' Associations
- County Residents and Land owners
- USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Lower Snake River District (BLM)
- USDA-Forest Service, Boise National Forest (U.S. Forest Service)

Organizational structure of the BCWG was managed under a modified Incident Command System (ICS). The use of ICS provided optimal information exchange, hazard identification and mitigation recommendation development. Public participation was accomplished by distribution of questionnaires that address wildfire concerns and suggestions, participation by homeowners associations at the team leader level, and information from community hazard identification and mitigation reports conducted within Boise County by Dynamac Corporation for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in 2001.

Boise County Wildland Fire Plan Objective

The objective of the Boise County Wildfire Plan is to mitigate wildfire risk and hazard vulnerability within Boise County. This objective is reached by public and official participation identifying and documenting areas of high and medium risk to wildfire hazards. Actions identified to decrease wildfire risk and hazards within Boise County are focused on public safety, emergency services, county infrastructure, natural resources, fish, wildlife and property protection.

Boise County Wildland Fire Plan Priorities

The priorities of the plan were developed by the BCWG and are standard priorities for most risk assessments, hazard reduction activities and wildfire incidents.

1. Protection of Life: Identify and provide mitigation recommendations for areas of high wildfire risks that are in or adjacent to homes and communities, and improve critical county infrastructure facilities.
2. Protection of Property: Identify and provide mitigation recommendations for properties of moderate and high wildfire risk. Increase public awareness through education, training and information sharing addressing wildfire risks and mitigation measures.
3. Protection of Resources: Identify resources that are at risk to wildfires and implement natural resource planning to protect these resources. To include protection and mitigation of at risk watersheds, vegetation, fish, wildlife and maintain soil stability.
4. Improve Wildfire Emergency Services: Improve county infrastructure and wildfire emergency service planning, training, communications, and equipment.
5. Increase Public Awareness of Wildfire Prevention: Increase public awareness of firewise practices and wildfire prevention through education training and information sharing.
6. Improve Partnerships for Implementation: Utilize partnerships currently established and develop additional participation with State, Federal, and private organizations.

Boise County Wildland Fire Plan Recommendations

The recommendations developed for Boise County's Wildfire Plan are listed by the two branches of the BCWG and the division of private, state and federal land within the county.

- Recommendations, Part I, includes: Mitigation actions developed by the VFD/Structure/Private Lands Branch.
- Recommendations, Part II, includes: Mitigation actions developed by the Wildfire Branch.

Part I and II recommendations have received input and review by all members of the BCWG. The recommendations are formulated as “**Action Items**” for this plan.

Action Item Organization

The tabulated action items presented in Table 1 include a short explanation as to how each action item would meet the stated objectives. The table also arranges the timeline, hazard type, implementation suggestions, and organizational coordination recommendations for each item.

The action items primarily address wildfire hazards; however, numerous action items will also mitigate other natural hazards, as stated in the respective column. The mitigation action items' timeline for implementation are recommended as "Short Term" and "Long Term". **Short term action items** are wildfire hazard mitigation endeavors that can be implemented by the County using programs, resources, authorities, and cooperative agreements that already exist. *Estimated timelines for short term items are one to four years.* **Long term action items** will require additional coordination, collaboration, resources and authorities for initiation and completion. *Estimated timelines for long term action items are five to ten or more years.*

Organizational coordination for the Boise County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan includes private land owners, communities, and the public County, State, or Federal agencies that have regulatory, programmatic, stewardship or oversight responsibilities and that can provide expertise, assistance, coordination, and organization for action item implementation.

Implementation ideas provide sources and resources for the implementation of the action item. These will include various potential grant or funding sources and organizations that could provide expertise or assistance for action item implementation. The referenced page numbers in this column contain the need for action and implementation ideas.

Objectives addressed by the action items can be viewed in the respective columns of the executive summary table.

Improving partnerships for action item implementation is addressed in the Boise County Wildfire Section, and is referenced with suggestions in numerous action items in Part II, Wildfire Branch Action Items.

Additional information about the formulation, need, hazard, and need for risk reduction for each action item is available on the page and appendix number referenced.

TABLE 1 - Wildfire Mitigation Action Items VFD/Structure/Private Land Owners

Natural Hazard	Action Item	Coordinating Organization	Timeline	Ideas for Implementation	Plan Goals Addressed				
					Protect Life and Property	Public Awareness	Natural Systems	Partnerships and Implementation	Emergency Services
Wildfire/ All Hazard Short Term/ ongoing	7.1 Update County Emergency Services Communication and Computer Support	Boise County Commissioners, Boise County Sheriff, Boise County Fire Fighters Association	2003	Page 32	✓			✓	✓
Wildfire/ All Hazard Short Term	7.2 Improve Boise County Fire and Dispatch Communications	Boise County Commissioners, Boise County Dispatch, Boise County Sheriff	1 year	Page 32	✓			✓	✓

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Natural Hazard	Action Item	Coordinating Organization	Timeline	Ideas for Implementation	Plan Goals Addressed				
					Protect Life and Property	Public Awareness	Natural Systems	Partnerships and Implementation	Emergency Services
Wildfire/ All Hazard Short Term	7.3 Develop County Dispatch Mobilization Communication Plan for cooperative assistance and for support and management of extended or multiple and complex incidents.	Boise County Dispatch, Sheriff, VFDs, U.S. Forest Service, BLM, IDL	2 years	Page 33	✓	✓		✓	✓
Wildfire/ All Hazard Short Term	7.4 Establish MOU for emergency use of Forest Service radio repeater system.	Boise County Sheriff, Fire Departments, County Commissioners, Boise National Forest	1 year	Page 33	✓		✓	✓	✓
Wildfire Short and Long term	7.5 Prioritize County-wide Idaho 2003 Fire Department needs Survey, training, PPE, communications, equipment/apparatus.	Boise County Fire Fighters Association	2003/ annual	Page 34	✓			✓	✓
Wildfire Short Term/ Ongoing	7.6 Promote Firewise Education and Activities, coordinate activities county wide.	Incorporated and rural communities in Boise County	Annual July or August	Page 34		✓	✓	✓	

TABLE 1 - Wildfire Mitigation Action Items VFD/Structure/Private Land Owners/ Wildfire agencies

Natural Hazard	Action Item	Coordinating Organization	Timeline	Ideas for Implementation	Plan Goals Addressed				
					Protect Life and Property	Public Awareness	Natural Systems	Partnerships and Implementation	Emergency Services
Wildfire Short Term/ Ongoing	7.7 Implement Hazardous Fuels Reduction program in identified developments and communities on County-Wide scale.	Boise County, IDL, Home owners associations.	1 year	Page 35 Appendix A, Maps	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wildfire Long term/ Ongoing	7.8 Establish Boise County Wildfire/Natural Disaster Council.	Boise County Commissioners, Boise County Fire Fighters, HOAs, Disaster Services.	1 year	Page 36		✓	✓	✓	
Wildfire Short Term	7.9 Implement planned 2003 fuels treatments on State and Federal lands.	BLM, IDL, U.S. Forest Service	Fall 2003	Page 36	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Wildfire Short term/ Long Term	7.10 Mitigate fuels hazards in identified high risk WUI watersheds on State and Federal lands.	U.S. Forest Service, IDL, BLM	2 - 10 years	Page 37 Appendix A Maps	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Wildfire Long Term	7.11 Mitigate fuels hazards in identified high risk non-WUI watersheds.	U.S. Forest Service, BLM, IDL	10 years	Page 37 Appendix A maps	✓	✓	✓	✓	

TABLE 1 - Wildfire Mitigation Action Items VFD/Structure/Private Land Owners

Natural Hazard	Action Item	Coordinating Organization	Timeline	Ideas for Implementation	Plan Goals Addressed				
					Protect Life and Property	Public Awareness	Natural Systems	Partnerships and Implementation	Emergency Services
Wildfire/ All hazard Short term/ ongoing	7.12 Subdivisions/communities develop an Emergency Action Plan (EAP).	Incorporated and rural developments/ VFD Fire Chiefs, County or Municipal Law enforcement, Elected Officials, HOAs, County Commissioners	1-2 years	Page 37 Example EAP in appendix	✓	✓		✓	✓
Wildfire/ All hazard Short term/ ongoing	7.13 Promote creation of defensible space around residences.	HOAs, VFDs, private land owners	1 year	Page 38	✓	✓		✓	✓
Long and Short term	7.14 Promote County Fire Protection Guidelines.	Developers in Boise County, Boise County Fire fighters Assoc. Boise County Planning and Zoning Commission	Ongoing	Page 38	✓	✓		✓	✓

Boise County Wildfire Plan Adoption

As the administrators of the Boise County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan, the Boise County Board of Commissioners are the authority and have the responsibility to adopt the plan.

Plan Maintenance

The plan maintenance section includes recommendations for annual plan review, and monitoring. A biennial re-evaluation of priorities for action items and progress is also recommended. A total plan revision should be conducted every five years. This plan maintenance will be directed by the Boise County Commissioners, and coordinated with the Boise County Disaster Services Specialist and the Boise County Fire Fighters Association. In addition, participation will be needed by various positions represented on the Boise County Wildfire Group, coupled with public input.

Economic Analysis

An economic analysis template/direction examining potential loss as a result of wildfires in Boise County is provided in Appendix D. Though total potential loss to catastrophic wildfires is variable by year, the cost/effectiveness of fuel treatments, county infrastructure improvements, and emergency wildfire services improvements will provide benefits to the primary objectives: protection of life, and protection of property.